

PRESS RELEASE

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STATEMENT REGARDING CHANGES TO PROPOSED RESTRICTIONS ON GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE IN OHIO

On February 7, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) drastically scaled back their proposed restrictions on gender-affirming care – a huge win for the LGBTQ+ community. Under the updated proposal, these restrictions would only apply to care for youth under 18. Because [HB 68](#) already bans puberty blockers and hormone replacement therapy, the scope of these restrictions will be much less extensive than we originally feared.

To be clear, the LGBT Community still strongly condemns HB 68 and eagerly awaits information on the ACLU's lawsuit against it. We will proudly continue to offer support for trans youth and will continue to advocate for the availability of gender-affirming care, a medical best practice for gender-expansive youth.

That said, we are relieved to learn that adult care will not be restricted as drastically as the initial proposal indicated. The revised restrictions expand the types of mental health providers who can provide care. The departments also clarified that bioethicists would review plans for care at the hospital level rather than the individual level, which greatly relieves the administrative burden.

We are still concerned about the stipulations that de-identified data must be collected after 30 days and presented to the Ohio legislature. This requirement creates an unnecessary administrative burden. To submit comments asking for the rules to be rescinded entirely, use the following [portal](#) by Feb. 14. For more information about the

revised regulations, please visit the following [resource](#) from the National Center for Transgender Equality.